

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The specification is objected to for minor informalities.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indications that claims 1-17 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the specification and claims 1, 4-7, and 9-17.

Accordingly, claims 1-17 are pending for consideration.

Objections to the Specification

The specification is objected to for minor informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

All Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Regarding use of the phrase "device isolation films," Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 7, 12, and 17 to recite "device isolation structures" in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

request that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 12, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding use of the term “crossing,” Applicants respectfully submit that, as shown in FIG. 2 and disclosed at lines 1-11 of page 8, a plurality of interconnection diffusion layers 61a, 61b, and 61c are formed in word line regions 60 and cross the plurality of device isolation structures 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding use of the phrase “word line region,” the Office Action alleges that the term “‘word line’ implies an addressable array or matrix of cells.” Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection of claims for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the recitation of “word line region” in at least claims 1 and 12 is not repugnant to the common meanings applied to the term “word line.” Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that one of ordinary skill in the art knows that the term “word line” denotes a conductive region, either within a substrate or upon a substrate, used to transmit electrical signals of a memory device, such as an SRAM or EEPROM. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that use of the phrase “word line region” in at least claims 1 and 12 merely denotes a region in which a word line is located. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding use of the phrase “a plurality of interconnection diffusion layers formed in a word line region,” the Office Action alleges that “a plurality of diffusion layers in a word line region” in claims 1 and 12 seems unnecessarily limiting and potentially confusing. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejections of claim 1 and 12 for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the recitation of “a plurality of interconnection diffusion layers formed in a word line region,” in at least claims 1 and 12 is not potentially confusing. For example, as clearly shown in FIGs. 4A and 4C, the word line regions 60 include a plurality of interconnection diffusion layers 61a, 61b, and 61c. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that use of the phrase “a plurality of interconnection diffusion layers formed in a word line region,” in at least claims 1 and 12 is fully and clearly described. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the features of at least claims 1 and 12, i.e., “a plurality of interconnection diffusion layers formed in a word line region,” is not confusing, and respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding use of the phrase “electrically isolated,” the Office Action alleges that the phrase “electrically isolated” in claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, and 16 conflicts with other features recited by claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, and 16. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, and 16 in accordance with the Examiner’s comments. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding use of the phrase “threshold voltage ion implantation region,” the Office Action alleges that the phrase “threshold voltage” in claims 12 and 14 is confusing. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 12 and 14 to recite “forming an ion implantation region in the plurality of active regions in a word line region to form a channel for controlling a threshold voltage.” Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the features of claims 12 and 14, i.e., use of the phrase “threshold voltage,” is not confusing, and respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding use of the phrase “electrically connected by a channel by applying a voltage to a word line,” the Office Action alleges that the language is confusing. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 14 in accordance with the Examiner’s comments. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the features of claims 1-17 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn for at least the above reasons.

CONCLUSION

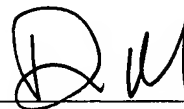
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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